

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the written specification as follows wherein added text is indicated with underlining and deleted text is marked with ~~striketrough~~ or enclosed in [[double-brackets]].

Please amend paragraph 0008 as follows:

[0008] According to one aspect of the present invention, there is provided a method to enable user authoring of content within an interactive television environment. Television content is communicated to a receiver system, the television content is ~~is~~ [[to be]] presented to user by the receiver system. Also at the source system, authoring data, associated with the television content, is communicated to the receiver system. At the source system, an authoring application is communicated to the receiver system, the authoring application being executable by the receiver system to enable the user to author content utilizing the authoring data.

Please amend paragraph 0030 as follows:

[0030] **Figure 3** is a diagrammatic representation of an exemplary data stream **68** that may, according to one exemplary embodiment of the present invention, be outputted from each of a number of multiplexers **50** deployed in headend system **18**. In the exemplary interactive television environment **10**, the application and content data may be presented to a broadcast server **20** as distinct modules. For example, the application data may constitute directory modules **70**, code modules **72** and data modules **74**. The content information may be included within content modules **76**. Each of the modules **70-76** is uniquely identified as being of a particular module type. A directory module **70** has a unique identifier so as enabled it to be identified within a data stream **68** without further information. A directory module **70**

furthermore contains information constituting a directory of code modules 72 and data modules 74 that form a particular interactive television application. Accordingly, a set-top box 38 may utilize a directory module 70 to identify all code modules 72 and/or data modules 74 that are required for assembling and executing an interactive television application. The directory module 70 is typically accessed and processed prior to the other modules, so as to enable the set-top box 38 to correctly identify and interpret other modules included within a data stream 68. As mentioned above, a headend system 18 will typically implement a carousel whereby the modules 70-76 are transmitted in a cyclic, repetitive manner. The set-top box 38 may ~~executed~~ execute a module manager, such as that described in U.S. patent no. 6,427,238, which operates to control the manner in which modules are requested by an interactive television application, received from various sources (e.g., application and content sources 34 and 32) and matched with interactive television applications requiring such modules.

Please amend paragraph 0033 as follows:

[0033] Similarly, the video data 84 may be a video segment to be displayed to a user and optionally made available to the user to include within user-authored content. For example, the video data 84 could be a replay video segment showing a goal scored during a sporting event. This video segment would then be available to a user to include within a message or other authored content pertaining to the sporting event. The audio data 86 may, for example, be a song (e.g., an MP3 [[MP#]] or .wav file), an audio track or excerpt, a ring tone or sound effect that would be available to a user to include within a message or other authored content.

Please amend paragraph 0079 as follows:

[0079] The exemplary scenario described above involves the generating and editing of data that is contextual to a football match that is being presented as a TV show. Of course, alternative embodiments of the present invention allow a user to generate and select/edit data that is contextual to a wide variety of content. The data is available for inclusion within the authored content 88 may, in various embodiments of the present invention, be contextual to content that is concurrently being delivered to user. Various examples of content in conjunction with which various embodiments of the present invention may be utilized are discussed below:

1. Sports: When watching a sports event, a user utilizing the authoring application is invited to send a pre-authored, or supplemented, message pertaining to the sports event (e.g., a score in a soccer match).
2. News shows: In this use scenario, the authoring application 98 may present authoring data 78 that includes current news or the latest news dispatch. In this embodiment, the authoring application 98 may display headlines or a set of current news dispatches, and enable a user to select one or more of these news items for inclusion within a message (e.g., an SMS message or email).
3. Reality television shows: For example, on a 24x7 channel, or on a daily summary, the authoring application 98 may display a list of the latest events that have occurred within the reality television show (e.g., "November 23, 2PM: Sarah kissed Robert, but said "I still love John"). In this case, the user may be presented the option of supplementing and/or editing a summary of a particular show, or quotes from a particular show.

4. Television series shows: In this scenario, the authoring application 98 may present a user with a summary of an episode or a main event that occurred during the series (e.g., event or episode selected by a user), the summary being presented preset text for inclusion within a message body.
5. Talk shows: A selected line delivered by a participant within the show may be presented as a pre-authored object line, or content, for inclusion within the body of a message.
6. Media releases: During a television broadcast, information concerning a media release (e.g., publication of a book, commencement of a theatre show, release of a DVD or CD etc.) may be presented for inclusion within a message. For example, the title of a new book may be presented. In addition, options to buy merchandise associated with the media event (e.g., a CD) may be presented by the authoring application 98. ~~I~~The The authoring data 78 that is presented for inclusion in a message may relate to a purchase of the merchandise or product associated with a media event. For example, the authoring data 78 may state "A friend of yours offers you a new DVD "Lord of The Rings (extended version)" call 0 100-503-503 (local call fee) or send an email and give your details to receive your gift." Accordingly, a particular user may author and send a message to a friend regarding the purchase of an item that the user believes the friend may be interested in acquiring.
7. Commercial messages: The supplied authoring data 78 may be linked, for example, to the release of a new product. For example, the authoring data 78 may state "This message is offered to you by Company X, the manufacturer of Product Y."

8. Text chat messages: In a further embodiment, the messages authored utilizing the authoring application 98 may be “text chat” messages. In this embodiment, the authoring application may facilitate user participation in “chat rooms” dedicated to specific broadcast television content. For example, while the television show “X-Files” is being broadcast, the authoring application 98 may provide a user with the option to enter a chat room dedicated to an episode of the “X-Files” that is currently being broadcast. In this way, the authoring application 98 may enable a user, in a near real-time manner, to engage in chat conversations regarding broadcast television program. In a further embodiment, the authoring application 98 may also include voice-over-IP (VoIP) capabilities so as to allow users to exchange voice messages, either in combination with alphanumeric data or as pure voice data. During the show, the text chat provides the option of not audibly interrupting a viewing experience.
9. Graphic content: In a further embodiment to the present invention, the authoring data 78 may include logos, images or other graphic elements that are contextual, or relevant to, concurrently distributed content. Such logos, images or graphical elements may be made available via the authoring application 98 for inclusion within authored images. For example, certain images depicting characters or objects within a television show could be broadcast, or made available within the authoring application 98 for user selection and inclusion within authored content 88. A user [[User]] may, in one exemplary embodiment, select an icon associated with a hero of a television show, and include this icon in a message (as opposed to typing in the hero’s name).
10. Audio data: In a further exemplary embodiment, and as alluded to above, the authoring data 78 may include audio data 86. In one exemplary embodiment, the

audio data 86 may be a contextual ring tone (e.g., music associated with a television show) that can be played at the set-top box 38, or that can alternatively be transferred to another user device (e.g., a cell phone) for playback via that further user device 110. Again, utilizing the television show "X-Files" as an example, the theme song for this show could be presented as a ring tone for inclusion within an SMS message communicated from the authoring application 98 to a cell phone of an identified recipient. The recipient, upon receipt of the message, stores the relevant ring tone on the cell phone. In other exemplary embodiments, the authoring data 78 may include multi-media data, such as audio, picture or video data that is associated with, related to, or contextual to other distributed content (e.g., a broadcast television show).

Please amend paragraph 0095 as follows:

[0095] While the machine-readable medium 1692 is shown in an exemplary embodiment to be a single medium, the term "machine-readable medium" should be taken to include a single medium or multiple media (e.g., a centralized or distributed database, and/or associated caches and servers) that store the one or more sets of instructions. The term "machine-readable medium" shall also be taken to include any medium that is capable of storing, encoding or carrying a set of instructions for execution by the machine and that cause the machine to perform any one or more of the methodologies of the present invention. The term "machine-readable medium" shall accordingly be taken to include ~~included~~, but not be limited to, solid-state memories, optical and magnetic media, ~~and carrier wave signals~~.